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COLONEL FLETCHER PROUTY INTERVIEWED

JOHN HART: Before he retired, Air Force Col. Fletcher Prouty spent a lot of his military career as what is called the focal point officer between the Department of Defense and the Central Intelligence Agency. He's written a book which is highly critical of what he calls The Secret Team, which by the way is the title of the book. Since there are frequent references in the book to information in the Pentagon Papers, CBS News correspondent Fred Graham, who's been covering the Daniel Ellsberg trial, has joined me for the interview. (original Hart)

Col. Prouty, I'd like to ask you first, what is the secret team?

COL. FLETCHER PROUTY: You know, there are quite a few people who write about the CIA, and Mr. Dulles has written about CIA; Lyman Kirkpatrick has written about CIA. The secret team really is the CIA and other parts of the government. The secret team includes, for instance, the participation of the Defense Department, of the White House, offices such as today we have under Dr. Kissinger. I think it's important to point out that in the operational aspects of CIA work, the participation of a major part of the government, not just CIA is an important consideration.

HART: Well, the secret team's part in such things as the assassination of Ngo Dinh Diem, that sort of thing, the ITT-CIA involvement--alleged involvement--in the election in Chile are pretty well documented. Can you tell us anything about what you think may be going on right now?

PROUTY: You mean current operations?

HART: That's right, yes.

PROUTY: Actually, most of the things that I knew in current operations ended with my retirement about ten years ago.